

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W
----- 040533

R 051525Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4386

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: UNITED PARTY SPLIT WIDENS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: UNITED PARTY (UP) PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS
EXPELLED MP RICHARD ENTHOVEN FEBRUARY 4. OSTENSIBLE CAUSE
OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS ENTHOVEN'S ASSOCIATION WITH
RECENTLY PUBLISHED PUBLIC OPINION POLL WHICH EMBARRASSED
PARTY LEADERSHIP AND OUTRAGED "OLD GUARD" CONSERVATIVES.
ACTION IS LATEST AND MOST SERIOUS CLASH IN ON-GOING UP
CIVIL WAR, AND IS SERIOUS SLAP IN FACE OF REFORMIST LEADER
HARRY SCHWARZ. LATTER'S OPTIONS OF RESPONSE ARE LIMITED,
BUT OBSERVERS ARE EXPECTING SOME SORT OF COUNTERATTACK,
INCLUDING POSSIBLE REFORMIST SPLIT FROM PARTY. UPROAR
PARTICULARLY DISCOMFORTING TO UP DURING THIS WEEK'S NO-
CONFIDENCE DEBATE, IN WHICH GOVERNMENT WILL DEFLECT OPPOS-
ITION CRITICISM BY POINTING WITH GLEE TO UP'S OWN INTERNAL
DISCORD. END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY 4 MEETING OF UNITED PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS
VOTED TO EXPEL DICK ENTHOVEN, 36-YEAR-OLD MP FOR RANDBURG
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WHL IS LEADING MEMBER OF HARRY SCHWARZ'S REFORMIST OR

"YOUNG TURK" GROUP. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS ENTHOVEN'S ASSOCIATION WITH POLL CONDUCTED BY PEGASUS COMPANY ON OPPOSITION VOTERS ATTITUDES, RESULTS OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN ARGUS CHAIN NEWSPAPERS. THOUGH VERSIONS CONFLICT, IT APPARENT THAT ENTHOVEN, AFTER SOME PRELIMINARY POLLING FINANCED BY HIMSELF, SUGGESTED TO ARGUS THAT PEGASUS CONDUCT FURTHER POLLS IN LARGE URBAN CENTERS UNDER NEWSPAPERS' SPONSORSHIP. POLL RESULTS SHOWED UP'S POPULAR APPEAL SLIPPING AND THAT ITS REFORMIST PERSONALITIES ARE GENERALLY MORE HIGHLY RATED THAN OLD GUARD LEADERS.

3. PARTY'S RIGHT WING SEIZED ON ENTHOVEN'S INDISCRETION AND BROUGHT CENSURE AND EXPULSION CHARGES AGAINST HIM IN PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS. ACCORDING TO SOURCES AT CAUCUS MEETINGS, ENTHOVEN SHOWED NO REMORSE, MADE NO ATTEMPT TO APOLOGIZE, AND WAS GENERALLY DEFIANT. LARGE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD GROUP OF UP MP'S SIDED WITH RIGHT WING AND VOTED FOR ENTHOVEN'S EXPULSION FROM CAUCUS. ENTHOVEN REMAINS AN MP BUT WILL BE SEATED APART FROM OTHER UP MP'S IN HOUSE AND WILL NOT HAVE ASSISTANCE OF UP WHIP IN SECURING SPEAKING TIME.

4. PARLIAMENT ABUZZ FEB 5 WITH SPECULATION ON WHAT REFORMIST RESPONSE WILL BE. EVEN THOSE MP'S AND JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE BECOME BLASE ABOUT CONTINUED REPORTS OF UP DISSOLUTION NOW BELIEVE MATTER CANNOT END JUST WITH ENTHOVEN'S EXPULSION. UP REFORMIST LEADER SCHWARZ HAS BEEN PURPOSEFULLY AND EFFECTIVELY INSULTED; HE MUST RESPOND. HOWEVER, SCHWARZ'S OPTIONS ARE LIMITED. HIGHLY RESPECTED UP REFORM LEADERS NIC OLIVIER AND JAPPIE BASSON TOLD POL COUNSELOR FEB 5 THAT THEY WILL NOT FOLLOW SCHWARZ OUT OF UP ON WHAT IS, AT LEAST FORMALLY, AN ISSUE OF SIMPLE PARTY DISCIPLINE, AND NOT AN IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION. IF SCHWARZ DECIDES TO LEAVE PARTY AT THIS TIME, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE FOLLOWED ONLY BY ENTHOVEN AND TWO OTHER MP'S, DAVE DALLING AND HORACE VAN RENSBURG.

5. SCHWARZ IS STILL LEADER OF THE TRANSVAWL UP AND, AS SUCH, A POWERFUL FIGURE. THOUGH PARTY RIGHT WINGERS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDISPUTEDLY AFTER HIS BLOOD, IT DOUBTFUL THEY CAN CONVINCE THE LARGE MIDDLE GROUP OF MODERATE UNITED PARTY MP'S TO GO AFTER HIM. FURTHER, AND SOMEWHAT IRONICALLY, IT POSSIBLE THAT MIDDLE GROUP IS STILL DISPOSED TO FOLLOW SCHWARZ'S LEAD IN MOVING UP PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN A MORE LIBERAL DIRECTION.

6. UP'S CONTINUING INTERNAL DISCORD SHOULD ENCOURAGE SEVERAL

VERLIGTE GROUPS STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH IDENTITIES FOR THEMSELVES. LATEST ENTRANT IN THIS FIELD IS NEW "VERLIGTE SECRETARIAT," ESTABLISHED AT LATE JANUARY MEETING IN CAPE TOWN, AND HEADED BY FORMER UP MP CATHY TAYLOR. ONE OF FIVE REFORMISTS EXPELLED PREVIOUSLY FROM CAPE UP TOLD EMBOFF FEB 4, PRIOR TO ENTHOVEN'S EXPULSION, THAT HIS GROUP HAD BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH TRANSVAAL REFORMISTS AND THAT A NEW PARTY, WITH OR WITHOUT SCHWARZ'S PARTICIPATION, WOULD BE FORMED WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.

7. COMMENT: WHATEVER DIRECTION THE LEADERS TAKE, IT IS CLEAR THAT CONTINUED UP SQUABBLING ONLY SERVES TO DIMINISH POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE PARTY AS A WHOLE. AMAZING RESTORATIVE POWERS OF THE UP ARE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED, BUT AT THIS POINT IT SEEMS, AS VAN RENSBURG SAID IN PRIVATE, THAT "UNRAVELLING" OF UP IS INEVITABLE. IN MEANTIME, VORSTER GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN IS ENJOYING SPECTACLE OF WATCHING UP INFLICTING WOUNDS ON ITSELF. UNFORTUNATE ASPECT OF ALL THIS IS DIMINUTION OF WHATEVER EFFECTIVENESS UP MIGHT HAVE IN CONTRIBUTING TO EFFORT TO AMELIORATE RACE RELATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PARTY DISSENSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750042-0898
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750271/aaaacldzh.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNITED PARTY SPLIT WIDENS
TAGS: PINT, SF, UNITED PARTY, (ENTHOVEN, RICHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006